

03 FEB 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Personnel for Special Programs

STAT FROM:

[redacted]
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: House Post Office/Civil Service Committee Meetings with Subcommittee Staff Directors

STAT REFERENCE:

Memo for the Record, fm [redacted]
Liaison Division, OLL, dtd 17 January
subj 1984 Agenda for the House Post Office/
Civil Service Committee from the Minority
Viewpoint

SUMMARY:

The House Post Office/Civil Service Committee will address the following issues/subjects during this session:

- supplemental retirement planning for federal employees;
- oversight of the OPM initiatives in the President's 1985 budget affecting federal employee pay, allowances, and benefits;
- Federal Employee Health Benefits Program legislation introduced in both the House (by a member of the committee) and the Senate; merit pay oversight and consideration of merit pay legislation introduced by a member of the committee;
- Senior Executive Service oversight; and
- pay equity legislation introduced by committee members.

1. While the referent addressed the House Post Office/Civil Service Committee's 1984 legislative agenda from the minority viewpoint, this memorandum will address the same agenda for the same committee, but from the perspective of the two principal subcommittees, as detailed by the staff directors of each. Please note that the staff directors of the subcommittees represent the majority viewpoint on the Committee, and therefore more closely represent the political reality therein.

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2. The staff director for the Civil Service Subcommittee, Mr. Andrew Feinstein, indicated that his subcommittee will probably only address two issues this session in a major way: National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 84, having to do with leaks and the Executive's attempts to deal with them; and continuing oversight of the Senior Executive Service (SES) as administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). He indicated an interest in getting into a dialogue on the output of the Council on Administration and Management, the Cabinet task force heretofore chaired by Ed Meese, to the extent that this output affects federal employee benefits, allowances, pay, and the like.

3. The sense I get from talking to Mr. Feinstein is that his subcommittee by and large reacts to initiatives originated elsewhere, as opposed to initiating legislation itself. Other than as stated above, I do not expect any major activity from this subcommittee this year.

4. The Compensation and Employee Benefits Subcommittee has just lost its staff director. Mr. Joe Grimes is the acting staff director. In our talks he indicated a far more ambitious agenda for 1984. He sees his subcommittee involved in at least four major issues, they being:

- oversight hearings on that portion of the President's 1985 budget having to do with federal employee pay and allowance issues, of which there are again many (hearings scheduled for late February or early March);
- hearings on H.R. 656, the subcommittee chairwoman's bill to amend the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (hearings presently scheduled for early May, the major focus of which will be to reach some accommodation with Senator Stevens (R,AL) on his bill S.2027);
- hearings on introduced merit pay legislation, the dates for which are presently unclear; and
- hearings on recently introduced pay equity legislation (see my memo of 2 Feb 1984 re H.R.4599 and H.CON.RES.239).

Mr. Grimes also mentioned the hearing on H.R. 3748 that the subcommittee will conduct on 7 February 1984 on the inclusion of Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization inspectors within the "hazardous occupation" category of the Civil Service Retirement System (which makes them eligible for early retirement, not unlike CIARDS). See my memo to you of 23 January 1984 for more detail. Mr. Grimes concluded our meeting with the statement that the subcommittee's most serious priority this session will be the oversight hearings having to do with OPM initiatives in the employee pay, allowance, and retirement areas.

5. Both of the subcommittee staff directors indicated that the full Committee will begin initial hearings on supplemental retirement legislation on 23 February 1984. It is possible that this 23 February hearing will spill over into the 24th. Further hearings are tentatively scheduled for early March 1984. Evidently the supplemental retirement legislation issue will be dealt with by the full Committee rather than at the subcommittee level.

6. I will follow all of the above and report on each of them as appropriate.

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